



ORCHARD VIEW
Community Education
A Division Of Orchard View Schools

*Inspiring you to LEARN.
Encouraging you to PLAY.*

May 25, 2016

**The Honorable Holly Hughes
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514**

Dear Representative Hughes,

Orchard View Community Education is writing in support of House Bill 5651, Amending the Port Authority Act of 1978, and respectfully request your support and advancement of this important legislation.

The amendment to the Port Authority Act of 1978 will allow for the creation of a public-private partnership to market and manage the Port of Muskegon Logistics Hub. The creation of such an organization is not allowed under the act as it is currently written. The development of a public-private partnership is essential for the future expansion of the port, as well as improving transportation infrastructure and logistics throughout West Michigan. State, Federal, and local stakeholders have been working collaboratively for several years to improve and increase port activities in Muskegon. This amendment will put the region one step closer to that goal.

We believe this amendment will allow for the Port of Muskegon to enhance its regional viability as an international logistics hub. In 2014, the 13-county West Michigan Prosperity Alliance (WMPA) through a public voting process identified the Port of Muskegon Regional Logistics Hub as the number one priority project and economic driver for the region. I am pleased to represent West Michigan Adult Education on the WMPA and we see the connection of creating a strong port to the success of our regional economy and to the families we serve.

This important piece of legislation is critical to the future success of the Port of Muskegon. It will allow the region to utilize all available opportunities, not only for funding, but for the development of a public-private partnership and governance of the logistics hub.

Orchard View Community Education feels that HB 5651 provides a framework to begin this process, and offer full support to these amendments.

Thank you for your continued work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Doug Wood, Director
Orchard View CE

1765 Ada Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49442 231.760.1350
www.orchardviewce.org

May 19, 2016

The Honorable Holly Hughes
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Hughes,

The **West Michigan Prosperity Alliance** is writing in support of House Bill 5651, Amending the Port Authority Act of 1978, and respectfully request your support and advancement of this important legislation.

The amendment to the Port Authority Act of 1978 will allow for the creation of a public-private partnership to market and manage the Port of Muskegon Logistics Hub. The creation of such an organization is not allowed under the act as it is currently written. The development of a public-private partnership is essential for the future expansion of the port, as well as improving transportation infrastructure and logistics throughout West Michigan. State, Federal, and local stakeholders have been working collaboratively for several years to improve and increase port activities in Muskegon. This amendment will put the region one step closer to that goal.

We believe this amendment will allow for the Port of Muskegon to enhance its regional viability as an international logistics hub. In 2014, the 13-county West Michigan Prosperity Alliance (WMPA) through a public voting process identified the Port of Muskegon Regional Logistics Hub as the number one priority project and economic driver for the region.

This important piece of legislation is critical to the future success of the Port of Muskegon. It will allow the region to utilize all available opportunities, not only for funding, but for the development of a public-private partnership and governance of the logistics hub.

The **West Michigan Prosperity Alliance** feels that HB 5651 provides a framework to begin this process, and offer full support to these amendments.

Thank you for your continued work on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Michael O'Connor, Member
Steering Committee
West Michigan Prosperity Alliance

Office of the Mayor
CITY OF MUSKEGON HEIGHTS
2724 Peck Street
Muskegon Heights, Michigan 49444
Phone (231) 733-8880 • Fax (231) 733-5229

Kimberley Sims, Mayor

May 26, 2016

The Honorable Holly Hughes
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Hughes,

The City of Muskegon Heights is writing in support of House Bill 5651, amending the Port Authority Act of 1978, and respectfully requests your support and advancement of this important legislation.

The amendment to the Port Authority Act of 1978 will allow for the creation of a public-private partnership to market and manage the Port of Muskegon Logistics Hub. The creation of such an organization is not allowed under the act as it is currently written. The development of a public-private partnership is essential for the future expansion of the port, as well as improving transportation infrastructure and logistics throughout West Michigan. State, Federal, and local stakeholders have been working collaboratively for several years to improve and increase port activities in Muskegon. This amendment will put the region one step closer to that goal.

We believe this amendment will allow for the Port of Muskegon to enhance its regional viability as an international logistics hub. In 2014, the 13-county West Michigan Prosperity Alliance (WMPA) through a public voting process identified the Port of Muskegon Regional Logistics Hub as the number one priority project and economic driver for the region.

This important piece of legislation is critical to the future success of the Port of Muskegon. It will allow the region to utilize all available opportunities, not only for funding, but for the development of a public-private partnership and governance of the logistics hub.

The City of Muskegon Heights feels the HB 5651 provides a framework to begin this process, and offer full support to these amendments.

Thank for your continued work on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Kimberley Sims, Mayor
City of Muskegon Heights



Muskegon County Road Commission

7700 East Apple Avenue
Telephone (231) 788-2381

Muskegon, MI 49442-4999
Fax (231) 788-5793

Melvin L. Black
Chairman

Jack E. Kennedy
Vice Chair

John J. DeWolf
Commissioner

Lewis J. Collins
Commissioner

Gerald J. Walter
Commissioner

May 23, 2016

The Honorable Holly Hughes
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Hughes,

The Muskegon County Road Commission is writing in support of House Bill 5651, amending the Port Authority Act of 1978, and respectfully request your support and advancement of this important legislation.

The amendment to the Port Authority Act of 1978 will allow for the creation of a public-private partnership to market and manage the Port of Muskegon Logistics Hub. The creation of such an organization is not allowed under the act as it is currently written. The development of a public-private partnership is essential for the future expansion of the port, as well as improving transportation infrastructure and logistics throughout West Michigan. State, Federal, and local stakeholders have been working collaboratively for several years to improve and increase port activities in Muskegon. This amendment will put the region one step closer to that goal.

We believe this amendment will allow for the Port of Muskegon to enhance its regional viability as an international logistics hub. In 2014, the 13-county West Michigan Prosperity Alliance (WMPA) through a public voting process identified the Port of Muskegon Regional Logistics Hub as the number one priority project and economic driver for the region.

This important piece of legislation is critical to the future success of the Port of Muskegon. It will allow the region to utilize all available opportunities, not only for funding, but for the development of a public-private partnership and governance of the logistics hub.

The Muskegon County Road Commission feels that HB 5651 provides a framework to begin this process, and offer full support to these amendments.

Thank you for your continued work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Hulka,
Managing Director



A proud partner of the American Job Center Network

LARRY EMIG
Chair, Local Elected Officials
DEBORAH SMITH-OLSON
Chair, Workforce Development Board
PAUL J. GRIFFITH
Executive Director

May 25, 2016

Dear West Central Region State Senators and Representatives,

We would like to share some important information with you relative to House Bill 5651, which aims at amending the Port Authority Act of 1978.

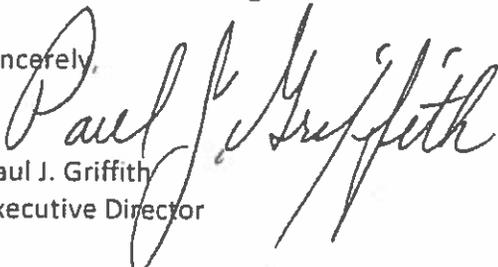
While this proposed amendment to the Port Authority Act of 1978 will allow for the creation of a public-private partnership to market and manage the Port of Muskegon Logistics Hub, it will do so much more for not only the 13-county region, but for the entire great state of Michigan. Because the amendment will allow for the creation of a public-private partnership, expansion of the port can occur, in addition to improving transportation infrastructure and logistics throughout West Michigan. From shipping agricultural-related goods to even international shipping of manufactured products, this will be a tremendous job builder for the entire West Michigan economy. This amendment will put the region one step closer to its goal of re-invigorating the Port of Muskegon, the local area, the entire 13-county West Michigan region, and ultimately, the entire state.

Two years ago the 13-county West Michigan Prosperity Alliance (WMPA), through a public voting process, identified the Port of Muskegon Regional Logistics Hub as the number one priority project and economic driver for the region. This proposed legislation is critical to not only new job creation but new business development.

Michigan Works! West Central's mission is to continually improve a workforce development system that produces a workforce with the required skills to attract, retain and expand business and enhance our regional economy. We are very excited to play a role in this important endeavor.

Thank you for allowing us to share information with you.

Sincerely,


Paul J. Griffith
Executive Director

cc: Representative Holly Hughes

Our Mission: "To continually improve a Workforce Development System that produces a workforce with the required skills to attract, retain and expand business and enhance our regional economy."

Michigan Works! West Central is an equal opportunity employer/program
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities
Michigan Relay Service 711
Supported by the State of Michigan

www.michworks.org

231.796.4801 • Fax 231.796.8316

14330 Northland Drive • Big Rapids Michigan 49307



NEWAYGO COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

June 16, 2016

Representative Holly Hughes
N-1195 House Office Building
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Amendments to PA 639, 1978 "Port Authority Act"

Dear Representative Hughes:

You have introduced HB 5651 and HB 5652 which provide a series of amendments to PA 639, 1978. These amendments would enable the creation of a public-private Port Authority like that envisioned for Muskegon County, and provide for the expenditure of public funding on real and personal property improvements deemed necessary to achieve the purposes of PA 639.

Creating a Port of Muskegon entity would be an important addition to protect and enhance the movement of freight into and from West Michigan. Businesses would benefit and their competitiveness would improve if West Michigan's logistics options were expanded to include water and a better port system beyond air, rail and truck. A Port of Muskegon represents just such an improvement to move freight and finished products into the global marketplace. The Port of Muskegon is a very critical part of our logistic system.

Like any empowered board, sometimes a unanimous decision is not possible to attain despite the validity or need for action. Therefore, I request a re-consideration of Sec. 8 (K) (5) within HB 5651 and simply permit decision making by a simple majority.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Blake", is written over a faint, larger version of the signature.

Todd Blake
Board President
Newaygo County Economic Development Office